

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 00694 090953Z

21

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P R 090904Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6900
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T AMMAN 0694

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, PFOR, JO, US
SUBJECT: TALK WITH KING -- HAWK FINANCING

REF: JIDDA 851, AMMAN 660

1. IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION WITH KING, SUBJECT OF HAWK FINANCING CAME UP. I ASKED IF HE HAD HEARD ANYTHING NEW. HE SAID NOTHING REALLY. AFTER RIFAT'S TALK WITH FAHD LAST MONDAY, FAHD HAD SEEN JORDAN AMBASSADOR IN SAUDI ARABIA. LATTER REPORTED THAT FAHD HAD SAID JORDANIANS SHOULD BE PATIENT WITH SAUDI BUREAUCRATIC DELAYS. HE THEN SAID APOLOGETICALLY THAT EVERYTHING HAD TO GO THROUGH THE KING AND THIS TOOK TIME, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT ALL HAD TO GO OUT IN THE DESERT FOR APPROVAL.

2. KING THEN ASKED ME WHETHER SAUDI EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH US (AS HAD ASKED CHIEF OF STAFF BIN SHAKER WHOM I HAD SEEN EARLIER AND SEPARATELY WHILE WAITING FOR THE KING TO ARRIVE). I SAID I HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED THAT THE SAUDIS HAD APPROACHED US AND ASSUMED THEY HAD NOT DONE SO.

3. KING THEN SAID THAT FAHD WAS STILL THE KEY. HE THOUGHT WE SHOULD WAIT FOR A SHORT WHILE AND SEE WHAT THE SAUDIS COULD PRODUCE. I SAID I THOUGHT THAT SOON KING MIGHT HAVE TO CONSIDER ANOTHER APPROACH TO

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FAHD IF HE WANTED TO PUSH THINGS ALONG. HE DID NOT

SEEM PARTICULARLY HAPPY WITH MY SUGGESTION, BUT DID NOT SAY VERY MUCH.

4. AS OUR CONVERSATION DEVELOPED AND SUBJECT OF HIS AMBASSADOR IN JIDDA CAME UP, I ASKED IF HE WERE CONSIDERING A CHANGE. HE SAID HE MIGHT DO THAT. HIS MAN SEEMED TO HAVE GOOD CONTACTS, BUT NEVER PRODUCED ANYTHING. I SAID THAT WAS MY OWN IMPRESSION.

5. LATER RIFAI AND I TALKED. HE SAID SAUDI AMBASSADOR HERE HAD BEEN CALLED HOME FOR THREE DAYS. HE THOUGHT HAWK WOULD BE DISCUSSED AND THAT SAUDI AMBASSADOR HERE HAD BEEN TOLD ABOUT THE PROGRAM AND KNEW THE URGENT NEED FOR ACTION.
PICKERING

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NNN

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